

INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN EU DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION MECHANISMS

**A preliminary study of calls for proposals in geographic and
thematic instruments**

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OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

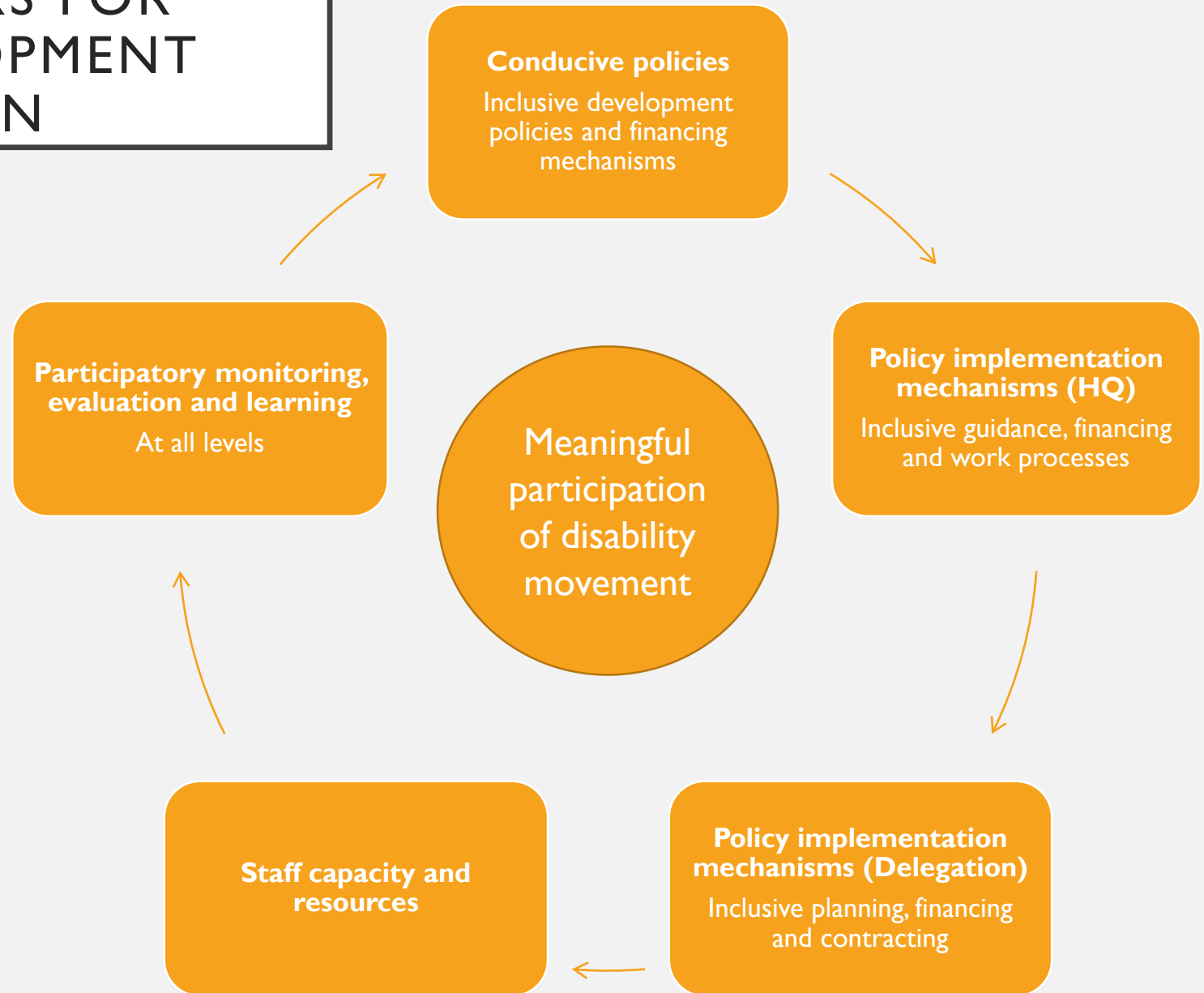
Assess EU's contribution to the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities in development cooperation programmes to identify opportunities to support the EU and Member States to meet their obligations under the CRPD

- Assess disability inclusion across key development policies and strategies, and funding instruments (DCI and EDF) of the EU
- Specifically look at disability inclusion in few financing instruments (calls for proposals):
 - Regional programmes – Latin America, ACP and Asia/South Asia
 - Thematic programme – Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities (CSO-LA)
- Identify initial opportunities and challenges on disability mainstreaming at EU Delegations and among their implementing partners
- Assess the level of engagement with, and participation of, the disability movement in EU development cooperation

KEY CONDUCTORS FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Theory of change – Rights Based Approach to development cooperation

- *Empowering people (rights holders) to enable them to improve their lives, organise and claim their rights as stipulated in national laws and UN conventions, and*
- *Supporting and demanding that those in power (duty-bearers) respect and respond to these legitimate claims*



METHODS AND TOOLS

- Desk review – EU international cooperation policies, DCI and EDF instruments and programming documents in 4 countries
- Analysis of disability inclusion in guidelines for calls for proposals (stop-light)
- Key informant interviews:
 - DG DEVCO, EEAS
 - Organisations of persons with disabilities and IDDC members in Brussels
- Field visit to 3 Delegations and Bridging the Gap implementing partners + one remote assessment
- Analysis of calls for proposals at EU Delegation level

POLITICAL WILL AND COMMITMENTS

- EU is signatory to the CRPD
- EU Disability strategy 2010-2020
- New EU Consensus for Development (2017)
- Disability inclusion marker (OECD) adopted (November 2018)
- European Commission joined GLAD network (2017)
- (ECHO disability inclusion in humanitarian action guidelines)

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

- Human rights and gender policy implementation mechanisms require revision and more systematic disability inclusion
- Disability inclusion focal point/unit can be better resourced to be more effective
- Specific mechanisms to promote disability inclusion are not yet available (Guidance note for staff from 2012 – not aligned to the New Consensus for example)
- Network of disability inclusion focal points require reactivation and a formal structure
- Funding instruments assessed are not inclusive of persons with disabilities
 - Multiannual indicative regional programmes weak in referring to the rights of persons with disabilities
 - CSO-LA refers to disability as one of various cross-cutting issues, not effective in implementation

Table 2 - Analysis of calls for proposals

	RED	ORANGE	GREEN	TOTAL
Regional programmes				
Latin America	15	1	3	19
African, Caribbean and Pacific	32	3	8	43
Asia and South Asia	28	8	5	41
Thematic programme				
CSO-LA	110	46	16	172
TOTAL %	67%	21%	12%	275

SNAPSHOT FROM EU DELEGATIONS

- Willingness and commitment to the CRPD – and positive image from disability movement
- Disability as part of cross-cutting or category of vulnerable populations in calls for proposal render very low results on inclusion
- Several competing priorities for staff - requests for practical applications tools for mainstreaming disability in a systematic manner
- Very limited application of data disaggregation on disability, including among implementing partners
- Wide consensus among Implementing partners suggesting EU to make inclusion obligatory
- Engagement and consultation with DPOs vary but could be reinforced and so the accessibility of EU Delegations overall.
- Capacities among DPOs also varies and internal struggles sometimes impede collaboration

CONDUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR DISABILITY INCLUSION IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION!

- High level commitments (disability inclusion summits, forums, OECD marker etc.)
- Member States development agencies are already having specific policies and actions on disability inclusion
- NGOs are increasingly committed to include persons with disabilities
- EU has shown commitment by joining other donors in GLAD Network and ensured inclusion in its commitment to the implementation of the SDGs

Time to invest and advance! Opportunity for EU to be at the forefront and ensure the new MFF is aligned with principles of an inclusive sustainable development!



AREAS FOR ACTION

